

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-314***

***May 21, 2002***

***Operations and Services***

***MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICE PROGRAM, NWSPD 10-3***

***MARINE WEATHER STATEMENTS***

---

**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

---

**OPR:** OS21 (R. Jacobson)

**Certified by:** OS21 (T. Pierce)

**Type of Issuance:** Initial.

---

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supersedes WSOM Chapters D-07, Marine Weather Service Program, issuance 91-15, dated October 11, 1991; D-51, Marine Services for Coastal, Offshore, and High Seas, issuance 94-02, dated March 21, 1994; and D-52, Marine Services for the Great Lakes, issuance 91-02, dated March 29, 1991.

Signed

April 4, 2002

---

Gregory A. Mandt  
Director, Office of Climate,  
Water, and Weather Services

Date

## MARINE WEATHER STATEMENTS

<u>Table of Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Purpose .....	2
2. Responsibilities .....	2
3. Marine Weather Statements - Contents/Procedures .....	2
3.1 MWS - Issuance .....	2
3.1.1 With SMW .....	2
3.1.2 Non-Severe Short-term Events .....	3
3.1.3 Non-Severe Long-term Events .....	3
3.1.4 Supplemental Information .....	3
3.1.5 Ice Changes .....	3
3.2 MWS - Content/Format .....	3
3.2.1 Headlines .....	3
3.2.2 Text .....	3

### Appendix

A. Examples of Marine Weather Statements .....	A-1
--	-----

1. Purpose. Issue Marine Weather Statements (MWSs) to supplement a SMW; to describe non-severe, but potentially hazardous conditions; and to provide information for a variety of conditions not covered by warnings or routine forecasts.

2. Responsibilities. Each NWS office having Great Lakes or coastal waters forecast responsibility (See NWSI 10-302) will issue MWSs as necessary. Do not issue MWSs for the offshore or high seas areas.

3. Marine Weather Statements - Contents/Procedures.

3.1 MWS - Issuance. MWSs are valid upon issuance. Operations personnel determine when each should expire and, if necessary, how often to issue updates.

3.1.1 With SMW. Forecasters may issue MWSs to:

- a. Cancel all or part of a SMW.

- b. Advise customers that a SMW has expired.
- c. Heighten awareness of the potential hazard. As time and staffing permit, forecasters should issue at least one statement midway through the valid period of a SMW.

3.1.2 Non-Severe Short-term Events. Forecasters may issue MWSs to describe short duration, non-severe, but potentially hazardous conditions in which sustained winds or frequent gusts are up to 33 KT for 2 hours or less.

3.1.3 Non-Severe Long-term Events. Forecasters may issue MWSs to provide details on significant conditions prevailing for longer than 2 hours that affect marine operations. For example: low water levels, dense fog, heavy surf conditions, hazardous materials spills, trends for increasing/decreasing winds, volcanic ash, or to advise for the potential development of warning conditions.

3.1.4 Supplemental Information. Forecasters may issue MWSs during coastal or lakeshore flood events to provide information specifically relating to mariners. They may also issue these to alert mariners of very significant weather features expected in the 3 to 5 day forecast period.

3.1.5 Ice Changes. WFOs should issue MWSs informing mariners of unforecasted weather events likely to impact the formation or destruction of ice.

3.2 MWS - Content/Format. MWSs are narratives following the format noted below:

(WMO HEADER)(ISSUANCE DATE TIME)  
(AWIPS ID)  
(AREAL UGC CODE[S])-(EXPIRATION TIME)-

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY)(STATE)  
(VALID TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE) (DAY) (DATE)

...HEADLINE (If Needed)...

Text  
\$\$  
Name (Optional)

3.2.1 Headlines. Use headlines to highlight or call attention to the event.

3.2.2 Text. This is a free form product. Locate important items prominently.

**APPENDIX A - Examples of Marine Weather Statements**

FZUS73 KDTX 212113  
MWSDTX  
LHZ421-282330

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DETROIT/PONTIAC MI  
513 PM EST SUN JAN 21 2001

ADVISORY...LOW WATER IN SAGINAW BAY...

ACCORDING TO THE DETROIT DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS....THE WEEKLY LAKE WATER LEVEL AVERAGE FOR SAGINAW BAY IS 5 INCHES ABOVE CHART DATUM. THIS WATER LEVEL DOES NOT TAKE WIND INTO ACCOUNT. THEREFORE...WHEN THERE IS A SOUTHWEST WIND OF 25 KNOTS OR GREATER....THE WATER LEVEL ON SAGINAW BAY MAY BECOME TOO LOW FOR EITHER SHIPPING AND RECREATIONAL BOATERS IN SOME PORTIONS OF THE BAY.

THIS STATEMENT WILL BE UPDATED WEEKLY AS WE GET UPDATES FROM THE DETROIT CORPS OF ENGINEERS. FOR THOSE LARGE SHIPS THAT NEED THE MOST UP TO DATE WATER LEVELS AT ESSEXVILLE...PLEASE CONSULT THE NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE WEB SITE AT...

[HTTP://WWW.CO-OPS.NOS.NOAA.GOV/DATA\\_RES.HTML](http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/data_res.html)

AND LOOK UNDER PRELIMINARY WATER LEVEL DATA.

\$\$

REISNER

FZUS73 KAPX 231329  
MWSAPN  
LSZ322-231500-

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GAYLORD MI  
829 AM EST SAT DEC 23 2000

...ICE LIKELY TO FORM QUICKER ON ST MARYS RIVER...

**NWSI 10-314 MAY 21, 2002**

AN INTENSE ARCTIC AIR MASS WILL CROSS THE UPPER GREAT LAKES THIS AFTERNOON RATHER THAN SUNDAY MORNING. THUS MARINERS IN THE ST MARYS RIVER AREA MAY SEE ICE FORMATION MUCH EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY FORECAST. THE NEXT GREAT LAKES ICE FORECAST IS SCHEDULED TO BE ISSUED AROUND 3PM MONDAY DEC 25.

\$\$

CAMPBELL

FZUS71 KCAR 190204

MWSCAR

ANZ050-070-190200-

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CARIBOU ME

1000 PM EDT TUE JUL 18 2000

...SPECIAL MARINE WARNING ALLOWED TO EXPIRE...

AT 1000 PM EDT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A STORM 35 NM SOUTHEAST OF MOOSE PEAK LIGHT...OR ABOUT 40 NM SOUTH OF CUTLER...MOVING EAST AT 35 KT. THIS STORM HAS EXITED THE COASTAL WATERS AREA AND NO LONGER REPRESENTS A DANGER TO MARINERS WITHIN THE COASTAL WATERS REGION. THEREFORE...THE SPECIAL MARINE WARNING HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO EXPIRE.

\$\$

BAKER